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13 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Press Attacks on Director Raborn

1. Four newspaper articles have recently appeared with critical references to Director Raborn:

a. Joseph Kraft on 1 November noted in his syndicated column that "the basic complaint about the Admiral is that he has neither training nor flair for political analysis of developments abroad."

b. Richard Dudman on 28 November, in an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on testimony about the Dominican crisis (subheadlined "CIA Chief's Appearance Before Senate Committee Is Called Inept"), noted that a "CIA man" had regretted the reports cited by Kraft because it meant Director Raborn would "stay on for at least another year."

c. Rowland Evans and Robert Novak on 3 December claimed in their syndicated column that "the Raborn crisis in the Central Intelligence Agency has become a top concern among Johnson Administration officials who deal with the Nation's security."

d. Marianne Means on 3 December reported in the Hearst Newspapers that the President's personnel officer, John Macy, had made some suggestions which had not met Mr. Johnson's high standards, citing as an example the fact that Mr. Macy pushed strongly for the appointment of Director Raborn, who "has been disappointingly ineffective."

2. Copies of these articles are attached under Tab A, along with the Pravda version of the Dudman article.

3. Under separate tabs are reports on contacts with Agency personnel, other relevant comments, and samples of earlier articles by Mr. Kraft (Tab B), Mr. Dudman (Tab C), Messrs Evans and Novak (Tab D), and Miss Means (Tab E).

4. Also attached (Tab F) are copies of two articles written in May 1965 which also contain critical references to Director Raborn:

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a. Marquis Childs, in a column devoted to the new Director's "gung-ho approach" to the Dominican crisis, quoted a participant at the National Security Council meetings as stating: "I wish John McCone was still over there running the CIA, and I never thought I'd live to see that day."

b. Ted Lewis, in a report that President Johnson was looking for "scapegoats" for the Dominican crisis, noted that the Director was being "accused of making too emotional an appeal to the White House about the Communist threat." He added: "But the digs at Raborn are basically aimed at the intelligence operation he heads. The State Department and Pentagon have consistently cast aspersions on the value of CIA 'evaluations.'"

5. Several Agency personnel have in the past been in contact with Mr. Childs and Mr. Lewis:

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a. Mr. Childs met on several occasions with former DD/I Amory and with former AD/O [REDACTED]; in March 1958 D/NE Sherman Kent reported that he had met him at a cocktail party; in January 1965 the then DD/P Richard Helms reported that in an arrangement made by the DCI he was assisting Mr. Childs on a novel he is planning to write; the last contact Mr. Childs had with the office of the Assistant to the Director was in 1963. In February 1955 William Bundy, a former CIA official who is now Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, reported that he had met Mr. Childs at the home of a Canadian Embassy official.

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b. Mr. Lewis has been in touch over the years with Col. Grogan, and met with Mr. McCone and [REDACTED] in 1964; no other contacts by Agency personnel with Mr. Lewis are on record.

6. The latest reference to this topic in the press is the final item in the "Periscope" column in the 20 December issue of Newsweek. It states:

"Trouble at the CIA  
CIA chief William F. Raborn is fighting to stop what he considers a campaign by some of his own staff to discredit him. The admiral's concern is over high-level leaks of information critical of his administration. He has already exiled one top aide to the field and others may follow."

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[REDACTED]  
Assistant to the Director

Attach: 6  
Tabs A - F

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